

Message Text

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FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT PRETORIA 3990 ACTION SECSTATE AND USUN
NEW YORK INFO BONN, DAR ES SALAAM, GABORONE, LAGOS, LONDON,
LUSAKA, MAPUTO, OTTAWA, AND PARIS DATED JULY 14, 1978.

QUOTE: UNCLAS PRETORIA 3990

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: MORE SAG REACTION

1. SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS TODAY, JULY 14, FEATURED ARTICLES ON
LIKELY EARLY UN ACTION ON WESTERN PROPOSAL ON NAMIBIA AND ON
THE BACKGROUND OF SWAPO S ACCEPTANCE. THE QUESTION OF WALVIS
BAY HAS SO FAR NOT BEEN FEATURED IN NEWS OR EDITORIAL
TREATMENT. THE PRESS HAS NEVERLESS REPORTED DR. OWENS
STATEMENT THAT THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY HAS SO FAR NOT BEEN
FEATURED IN NEWS OR EDITORIAL
TREATMENT. THE PRESS HAS NEVERLESS REPORTED DR. OWEN S
STATEMENT THAT THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY S OWNERSHIP
WOULD BE HELD OVER UNTIL AFTER SWA INDEPENDENCE WHEN THE
WESTERN POWERS WOULD SUPPORT ITS INCORPORATION INTO THE
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TERRITORY. A REPORT FROM NEW YORK INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD
BE A SEPARATE MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL NEXT MONTH.
TO TACKLE THE WALVIS BAY QUESTION AND THAT IT IS
UNDERSTOOD THAT THE WEST WILL BACK A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
IT S INTERGRATION WITHIN THE FUTURE NAMIBIA. THE REPORT
OBSERVED THAT THIS COMPROMISE HANDLING OF THE WALVIS
BAY ISSUE WAS WORKED OUT TO CLINCH SWAPO S SUPPORT FOR THE

PEACE PACKAGE AND THAT IT WOULD NOT AFFECT THE INDEPENDENCE PROCESS. THE SABC RADIO COMMENTARY THIS MORNING INCLUDED AMONG THE "CONDITIONS" UNDER WHICH SOUTH AFRICA HAD ACCEPTED THE PROPOSAL THE POINT THAT THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY WAS AN ISSUE TO BE NEGOTIATED IN THE FUTURE BY SOUTH AFRICA AND INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA.

2. THE PRESS QUOTES PRIME MINISTER BOTHA AS DESCRIBING SWAPO'S AGREEMENT AS A DEVELOPMENT THAT COULD HERALD A NEW ERA IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. BOTHA CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT EVERYONE INVOLVED WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT AND EXECUTE THE WESTERN PROPOSAL WITH SINCERITY. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HE SAID, ACCEPTED THAT NO QUALIFICATIONS OF ANY NATURE - DIRECT OR BY IMPLICATION - WOULD BE ADDED TO THE PROPOSALS.

3. ASKED HOW THE MAINTENANCE OF SECURITY AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY WERE AFFECTED, BOTHA REPORTEDLY REPLIED "THE SECURITY OF THE TERRITORY IN NO WAY BECOMES INVOLVED. NO REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF TROOPS IS FORESEEN UNLESS AND UNTIL THE SITUATION OF COMPLETE PEACE HAS COME ABOUT AND IS MAINTAINED. DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD, SOUTH AFRICA REMAINS RESPONSIBLE THROUGH THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY, THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE, ORDER AND SECURITY AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE WILL CONTINUE WITH THEIR NORMAL DUTIES."

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4. IN CAPE TOWN, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL PARTY, COLIN EGLIN, WAS QUOTED AS SAYING "PROVIDED NO NEW TERMS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IT PAVES THE WAY FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT GOAL OF ALL - INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED INDEPENDENCE FOR SOUTHWEST AFRICA AND PEACE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA.

5. NEWSPAPERS IN WINDHOEK HAVE REPORTEDLY CARRIED HEADLINES WELCOMING SWAPO'S AGREEMENT. BISHOP JAMES KAULUMA, ANGLICAN BISHOP, WHO THIS WEEK RELEASED A STATEMENT BY ANGLICAN CLERGYMEN REJECTING THE WESTERN PROPOSALS (PRETORIA 3941) REPORTEDLY SAID "I HOPE SOMETHING GOOD WILL COME OUT OF IT AND A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WILL BE ACHIEVED, BUT IT IS PREMATURE FOR ME TO COMMENT AT THIS STAGE." CATHOLIC BISHOP KOPPMAN REPORTEDLY WELCOMED SWAPO'S ACCEPTANCE AND CALLED ON PEOPLE TO WORK TOGETHER CALMLY AND WITH TOLERANCE SO THAT A PEACEFUL, JUST AND INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION COULD BE ACHIEVED. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NAMIBIAN NATIONAL FRONT REPORTEDLY SAID SWAPO'S MOVE WAS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION THAT WOULD START THE BALL ROLLING TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE.

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